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BOROUGH OF PENRYN



REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

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Borough of Penryn

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Penryn.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report
on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough
of Penryn during 1950.

The health of the Borough was satisfactory.
The Death Rate was high at 14.5 compared with 11.6 for
the whole country but against this must be stated that
not a single death occurred under the age of 40 and
the average age at death was only a fraction less than
68. The Birth Rate at 19.1 was considerably above the
rate for the whole country and there were no infant
deaths or still-births. These are truly remarkable
figures which it will be difficult to repeat.

Mass Radiography was made available to the
public from 30th January to 7th February. Despite
considerable advance publicity and propaganda the
response was poor as only 322 persons presented
themselves for examination. Among these, 2 persons
were discovered with early signs of tuberculosis which
have since been kept under observation. But for
their early discovery these cases might have continued
in ignorance of their condition until the disease was
well established and past all cure. It is hoped that
when the Mass Radiography Unit returns to Penryn, as it
will in February, 1952, the majority of the public will
present themselves for examination.

I should like here to express my appreciation
of the help and consideration I have always received from
the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and my
thanks to Mr. Blackmore for his ready co-operation at all
times.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

V. E. Whitman,

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area, acres	721
Population	4103
Number of inhabited houses	1231
Rateable value	£19,526.10.0.
Product of Penny Rate	£79.4.7.
Number of houses built and under construction since 1945 ..	139
Number of families on waiting list for houses ..	425

VITAL STATISTICSLive Births

Males 42. Females 36. Total 78.

Registrar General's "Area comparability Factor" 1.00

Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn 19.1.

Birth Rate, per 1,000 population,
England and Wales 15.8.

Still Births

Nil

Deaths

Males 38. Females 24. Total 62.

Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor" 0.96

Death Rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn 14.5.

Death Rate, per 1,000 population,
England and Wales 11.6.

Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age

Nil

Analysis of Causes of Death

	1948	1949	1950
Whooping Cough	-	1	-
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System ..	1	-	1
Influenza	-	1	-
Cancer	16	5	12
Diabetes	1	-	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	9	9	12
Heart diseases	13	8	17
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2	5
Bronchitis	1	5	2
Pneumonia	2	1	-
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	-
Digestive Diseases	-	1	1
Nephritis	1	4	1
Diseases of Early Infancy	1	-	-
Suicide	-	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	-
Other Violent Causes	-	1	3
All other causes	1	5	5
	—	—	—
	49	46	62
	==	==	==

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

										<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
0+	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
1 - 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
5 - 14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
15 - 24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
25 - 44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2	2
45 - 64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	6	20
65 - 74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	11	29
75+	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	5	11
										—	—	—
										38	24	62
										==	==	==

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE
HEALTH SERVICE1. Clinics

Infant Welfare Clinic 51 sessions were held at which there were 1786 attendances. The average attendance, 35 per session, was thus higher than in 1949.

Dental Clinic - Early in 1950 a dental clinic was opened in Penryn for the treatment of school children and other priority classes. During the year treatment was given to 12 pre-school children and 21 mothers.

2. Ambulance Service and Hospital Car Service.

These services are supplied from Falmouth.

3. Home Help Service

During the year the establishment of Home Helps had to be increased from 9 to 10 owing to pressure of work. 18 Maternity cases and 63 others were given help in their homes. These numbers are considerably lower than those in 1949 but the length of stay was greater.

4. After-Care

Free extra nourishment was granted to 4 tubercular persons on the recommendation of the Chest Physician.

5. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory in Truro examined and reported on 19 samples of ice cream during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Noteworthy in the following tables are the 4 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis. Two of the cases were diagnosed in the acute stage. They were isolated and given the usual treatment. Both made a fair measure of recovery. Neither of the other two children was considered ill enough to justify calling a doctor and it was not until they were examined at orthopaedic clinics that the diagnosis was established.

(i) In April, 1950, Mrs. K. and her sister developed what they thought was 'flu, with sore throats, aching limbs, headache and general malaise. They recovered after 4-5 days and a few days later Nola K., aged 9 years developed similar

symptoms. She sweated profusely and complained of severe pain in her legs. The main symptoms disappeared in due course but as her leg pains continued she was taken to the doctor who sent her to the orthopaedic surgeon.

(ii) About Easter time, (Easter Sunday, 9th April) 1950, Pamela B. aged 14, complained of headache, sore throat and had a temperature. This was considered to be influenza. She recovered. Several days later her sister, aged 10 years, developed similar symptoms and also complained of pains in her legs. As this pain continued after the disappearance of the other symptoms she was taken to her doctor who sent her to the orthopaedic surgeon.

These histories were taken in September when memories had had time to become blunted of course. Other enquiries suggest that there was a small epidemic of what was thought to be influenza in the Spring. It now seems likely that it was due to the virus of Poliomyelitis. The two notified cases occurred in November, 1950, which suggests that they form part of the Falmouth epidemic in which there were seven cases plus one in Mylor. This began in August and the last case was diagnosed on 31st October, 1950.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic		Measles	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	2	4	1	2	-	2	1	-
10-14	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
15-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	5	2	3	-	4	1	-
Total	9		5		4		1	

Age Group	Acute Pneumonia		Erysipelas	
	M	F	M	F
0 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-
15--44	-	1	-	-
45--64	-	-	1	1
65+	-	-	-	-
	-	1	1	1
Totals	1		2	

Immunisation against Diphtheria

During the year 44 children under 5 were immunised against diphtheria, 138 booster doses were also given.

On the 31st December, the estimated number of children between the ages of 15 months and 5 years in Penryn was 213, of these 187, or 87.8% had been immunised.

Vaccination against Smallpox

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15+	Total
Number vaccinated	2	12	3	1	18
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	-	5	5

Tuberculosis

Age Group	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
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Total	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
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	5		-		1		-	
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On the 31st December, there were 33 respiratory and 13 non-respiratory cases on the register.

Rate per 1,000 population, Tenryn 11.2
Rate per 1,000 population, Cornwall 6

When considering these figures, it must be remembered that the vast majority of cases remain on the register until death. The lower the death rate therefore the larger the number remaining and the higher the incidence. In the past two years 21 new names have been entered in the register and there has only been one death. Many registered cases are living useful and happy lives and their disease is quiescent. The main objective must be to discover every case as early as possible and to keep all close contacts under observation. The visit of the Mass Radiography Unit will be a great step in the right direction if the public can be persuaded to take full advantage of it. Another measure is to vaccinate contacts under the age of 40 years with B.C.G. vaccine. This has been started but it is too early yet to justify more than a mention.

BOROUGH OF PENRYN

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Water Supply

Water for the town is supplied by the Falmouth Corporation Waterworks. The supply has been adequate during the year and the quality has been satisfactory.

Sewerage

There has been no change to note in the system of sewers or the method of disposal. The surcharging of the sewer in Tresooth Lane, at time of storm, will be remedied when the new sewage disposal scheme is carried out.

Meat and Other Foods

Inspection of the retail premises has continued throughout the year and the ready co-operation of the shopkeepers has made statutory action unnecessary.

The carcass meat retailed in the area is obtained from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Lower Penrose and has given no cause for condemnation during the year.

The following Canned foods were surrendered and condemned as unfit:-

Meats	34½ lbs
Milk	1 lb 8 oz
Fruit	10 lbs
Vegetables	12 lbs
Soups	11 lbs
Jam	2 lbs

Similarly one box of dried fruit (25 lbs) which was decomposed was surrendered and condemned.

The use of some metal containers for the transport of wet fish has been noted and it is hoped that this method of packing will increase to the complete exclusion of the unsatisfactory wooden boxes.

Ice Cream

There are 8 premises licenced for the sale of Ice Cream which is of proprietary brands.

19 Samples were taken during the summer giving the following gradings:-

Grade I	1
Grade II	4
Grade III	8
Grade IV	2

4 Samples arrived at the laboratory in a state unsuitable for testing.

Slaughterhouses

No slaughterhouse in the Borough was used during the year.

Housing

The following summary shows the extent of works completed during the year under review.

New houses erected by the Council	24
New houses erected by Private Enterprise	10
War Damaged houses repaired	3
Other houses repaired as the result of informal action	7
Repairs to Council houses at 299 houses	
No. of inspections made regarding the disrepair or defective conditions of houses (excluding Council Houses)	48
No. of inspections, as above, of Council houses	323
Total No. of houses in the Borough	1231
No. of Council Houses	312

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of refuse from the area twice each week and the extra collections in the main street has been continued during the year.

There are still many improvised dustbins - receptacles without proper covers which permit access to the refuse by flies, rodents and animals. The absence of handles on these bins make the emptying more difficult and costlier than would be the case if a proper type bin, standard throughout the town, was used.

From August the refuse from Falmouth has also been dealt with at the Falmouth Road disposal site.

Rodent Control

The arrears of work accumulated in 1949, due to the absence of a rodent operator, have to a large extent been reduced during the current year.

A summary of the work done is appended.

No. of inspections and reinspections made were 1866

Premises treated :-

Dwellings and gardens	293
Refuse Dump	3
Business Premises	9
Corporation Properties	1

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen
Your obedient servant

K.R. BLACKMORE. M.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

